

## American Appeal

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Discussion

## Open Shoppers Launch Drive to Wipe Out Milwaukee Socialist Party

## Debs Column

## Organizing Slaughter

Professor Forrest Revere Black of the Department of Political Science of the State University of Iowa has a startling expose of the War Department in its nefarious machinations to make the national treasury safe for the profiteers in the next war. In a recent issue of the New Republic, the article begins with the statement that "The War Department is engaged at the present time in the gigantic task of parceling out contracts and various concessions to the prospective purveyors of the greatest nation for the next war. The country is being distracted and contracts are being distributed and contracts are to be made to furnish the seven supply branches of the army. The negotiations are being conducted in secret. No outsider can say how many signed contracts are filed in the vaults of the War Department at Washington. In general, the plan is for the War Department to make a contract with the manufacturer of war supplies, assuring him of capacity production; the price to be determined at the time the goods are delivered on the basis of cost plus a 'normal' rate of profit; the contract to be automatically operative upon the declaration of war."

Professor Black then goes on to disclose in detail just what the War Department is doing in the way of signing up contractors with the potential profiteers involving millions, say, hundreds of millions of dollars, so the contractors for armaments and supplies will have every incentive in the world to shout for "Preparedness," to subscribe to the "Boy Scouts" and the "Girl Scouts" and the military movies, and to assist the war propaganda all along the line so as to speedily precipitate the next great slaughter for the benefit of the profiteers and the glory of ten million mutilated corpses.

"There is no specific legal authority for this program of the War Department," says Professor Black, who adds: "It has never been specifically sanctioned by congress."

And yet the War Department, without legal authority and without the sanction of congress, goes forward on its own account, at the behest of Wall Street, awarding tremendous contracts in secret to the prospective profiteers who came so near robbing the government blind and bleeding it white in the last slaughter, and who will surely complete the looting of the nation in the next.

AS A MATTER OF FACT THE WAR DEPARTMENT IS SIMPLY THE AUTOMATIC GUN THAT WALL STREET CARRIES IN ITS HIP POCKET.

If the searchlight of investigation is needed anywhere it is certainly called for in the activities of the War Department in preparing for and promoting the next world slaughter.

## The Fraud of Treaties.

A great deal of public has been occupied in the public prints in regard to the Locarno peace conference. Certain treaties, protocols and stipulations looking to arbitration and peace were adopted there and a great deal of glorification has since been indulged in. We cannot share in such exuberance, profoundly interested as we are in peace.

We know the value of treaties negotiated by capitalist powers.

We know that they are entered into by the diplomats representing the imperial masters and that while they are all gentlemen of the old school they are by trade and profession a set of unscrupulous schemers, liars and false pretenders.

This is plain language and we mean it to be so. We understand the trade of these elegant gentlemen, the unclean trade of these diplomatic lackeys of the imperial robbers, who bow and cater to and smile at each other while all the time seeking by hook or crook to deceive, thwart, cheat and swindle each other in the filthy game in which no perfectly upright and honorable man could have a part without being defiled.

There is more honor among ordinary thieves than among diplomats that negotiate terms of peace while scheming and conniving to precipitate war.

We have no faith in nor patience with the ruling class hypocrisy which professes to be seeking world peace, while at the same time crying for preparedness, for guns, munitions, gas bombs and other hellish instruments of murder and destruction.

The capitalist system is a war-breeding crime-incubating system and no peace in any true sense will ever come to the world until that system is destroyed.

There is no truth, no honor and absolutely no humanity in that system. They talk about treaties of PEACE. They know no such thing. Their treat-

ies are not worth the paper they are written on when the real test comes as it came in the world war. It is then that the people find out what capitalist treaties are and what they amount to.

The most solemn treaty turns into a "scrap of paper" in an instant when the guns begin to volley and thunder. The word of the imperial masters is not good. Their treaties are worthless. They lie to each other and they lie to the world to perpetuate their own vicious and debasing misrule. Down with capitalism, imperialism and militarism!

## Coal Miners Face United Onslaught

A united attack by organized American capitalism for the purpose of laying any settlement of the strike of the anthracite coal miners, hindering all public measures for the operation of the coal mines, and the starving of the miners into submission, are revealed in the latest developments connected with the coal strike.

The attitude of the operators in the conference in New York and in connection with the latest proposal of Mr. Lynett of the Scranton Times has made it clear that there is a set purpose on the part of the operators to listen to no terms of settlement until the United Mine Workers organization is crushed.

The bill presented by Victor L. Berger, Socialist congressman, for seizure and federal operation of the mines has been referred to the committee on interstate and foreign commerce, which is overwhelmingly hostile to the proposal.

The anti-labor majority in the Pennsylvania legislature following Governor Pinchot's call of a special session to deal with the matter, has rejected his plan of operation of the anthracite coal mines under state control.

Under the strategy of Longworth in the House and the old guard in the Senate, Boylan's resolution for seizure and operation of the mines and the bill offered by Copeland of New York, similar to Berger's, have been chloroformed and put to sleep in committee.

THE ONLY HOPE FOR THE MINERS IS FINANCIAL SUPPORT FROM THE TRADE UNIONS, THE SOCIALISTS AND OTHER PROGRESSIVES SUFFICIENT TO KEEP THE MINERS ON THE STRIKE JOB UNTIL THE COAL COMBINE IS FORCED TO ITS KNEES.

THIS CAN BE DONE AND IS BEING DONE.

Hundreds of labor organizations have begun to respond. Money has begun to come in to the Appeal fund to help the miners. Comrades and friends, let your response be such that it will be a credit to the Appeal and will be an important factor in winning one of the biggest battles ever waged in defense of the workers and consumers of this country.

## Holland Shows U. S. True Coal Solution

Here is some of the evidence that was laid before the British Coal Commission which helped to convert it to the idea of public ownership of the coal mines, by the British people. It points to the remedy that must be applied in the United States to solve the critical coal situation here.

The production of coal from State mines in Holland during 1924 exceeded the output from private mines.

The outputs of bituminous coal from the State mines, as compared with the total output, are shown in the following table:

	Output	Total Output
Long tons.	Long tons.	
1920	1,743,728	3,877,259
1921	1,825,543	3,858,107
1922	2,452,404	4,496,756
1923	2,472,567	5,195,707
1924	2,912,899	5,787,020

The outputs of the chief State mines during 1924 were as follows:

	Long tons.
Wilhelmina Mine	678,315
Emma Mine	1,166,810
Hendrik Mine	1,050,299

The total output of coal from these State mines in 1924 was seven times more than the total output from the same mines in 1913.

The opening up of another State mine, the Maurits mine, proceeded satisfactorily during the year, the staff being increased in numbers from 813 to 1,661, and an output of 17,475 long tons being obtained from two shaft workings.

The gross working profit of the State coal mines as a whole in 1924 was 7.32 million florins, of which 2.82 million florins were written off, 1.16 million florins added to the reserve fund, 2.34 million florins being available for the State coffers, or 3 per cent on the capital, which amounts to 78 million florins.

Washington Letter  
By Marx Lewis

## The World Court

The most important matter before Congress, judging from the bitterness with which it was discussed and the interest with which it was followed—a bitterness and an interest hardly justified when the facts are considered—has been disposed of. The United States adheres to the Permanent Court of International Justice, with reservations.

Early in the discussion it seemed as if the fight would narrow itself down to one in which the so-called radicals or progressives in the Senate would be found united in their opposition to the World Court. The break in their ranks came when Senator Norris announced that he had become convinced that no harm would come of joining the court. Howell, of Nebraska, and Wheeler, of Montana, went along with him, although the majority of the progressives, such as Brookhart,razier, La Follette, Nye and Shipstead, went down fighting the court.

Whatever possibility existed that the court would ever be able to command the respect of the various peoples was greatly impaired by the reservations which were included. They were intended to satisfy the nationalistic impulse, which no where and at no time was more strongly evident than in the debate on the world court. The merit of the argument made against the court was destroyed when it all seemed reduced to flag waving and to constant reference to the voices from the grave that were warning against entangling alliances.

It will be unable, despite the expectations of its friends, to prevent war; and it will be equally unable, despite the fears expressed by its opponents, to provoke war. Its immediate advantage will be to silence and to lull into a false sense of security millions of well-meaning advocates of international peace. Its ultimate advantage will be to enable a few of the leading powers to make decisions to which the smaller ones will be bound to yield. But since such decisions would have in any event been made to satisfy the longing for economic advantages, and since the leading powers have the means of enforcing their demands anyway, courts or no courts, the benefit to be gained will be slight.

In that court, a small nation will stand as much chance of getting a fair hearing as the individual litigant in a local court does of getting a fair trial against the forces that a corporation can invoke. But, even then, the smaller nation is no worse off because of the court than it would otherwise be—it is unlikely that a resort to force would get better results for the weaker one. It is perhaps better to endure the hardship of an unjust decision than to return to the use of force in settling disputes.

The chances of a smaller nation getting a square deal before the world court have probably become slimmer by America's entrance. Its voice will be raised there, as it is elsewhere now, in favor of Fascism and against democracy. Whether America gains or loses by going into the court is doubtful, but that the world court and international justice does not gain seems pretty certain.

## Tax Publicity

The Revenue bill, which received such whole-hearted support on the part of both the Republicans and the Democrats when it was considered in the House, will have harder sailing in the Senate, where a number of the progressive Senators, particularly Senator Norris, of Nebraska, are going to insist upon certain modifications, including one concerning the provision for publicity of income tax returns.

It is unlikely that the Republicans and Democrats, who united in praising the tax bill in the House as a non-partisan measure, will fall out in the Senate in a sufficient degree to enable the Progressive to obtain satisfactory improvements, as was the case when the last tax bill was considered by Congress. But if the unexpected and unlikely should happen, and the Progressives should make a valiant fight, and that fight should be successful because of the aid they will get from the Democrats—what then?

If the income tax returns remain public property—the people who are compelled to get along on less than is necessary to live decently—workers who have never earned enough to pay an income tax—will know what every one who thinks should now know: namely, that a few, by reason of their ownership of the means of production and distribution, are able to amass huge fortunes at the expense of the people who toil. They may know it now, but believing that they will be fortunate enough to rise out of their

Big Business Exemplifies Its  
Love for Farmer Co-operatives

Armour and Company is loudly ballyhooing to the nation in a circular the triumphant re-entry of big business into North Dakota and the defeat of Socialism.

The occasion is the acquisition by Armour and Company of meat packing plants formerly owned by farmers' co-operatives in Fargo and Huron, North Dakota.

Glenn Griswold, editor of the Journal of Commerce of Chicago, is quoted as follows:

"Two million dollar packing plants in the Dakotas which have stood idle as monuments to Socialism, and which have served only to remind a reviving countryside of its genuine distress of mind and pocketbook subsequent to 1920, have smoke in their stacks today. The celebration of the opening of these plants was a proclamation to the world that the Dakotas are done with State Socialism."

Armour's circular adds:

"The Fargo plant was idle two and one-half years, but lost over a million dollars during the time it was operated. Machinery for the Huron plant was on the ground, but had never been installed. The opening of these two plants marked the return of outside capital to North Dakota and South Dakota after years of absence because it was not only unwelcome but also anathema. The demonstrations at Huron and Fargo offered convincing evidence that after all the American Farmer is essentially conservative and not the natural prey of Socialists and communists."

This view of farmers' co-operatives is most interesting, coming as it does from the very heart of big business. These same interests, who have damn farmers' co-operatives as deplorable examples of State Socialism, have been engaged for several years in

spreading by means of the metropolitan daily press, Republican and Democratic politicians and big business men themselves the propaganda that THE SOLE SALVATION OF THE FARMER IS THE FARMER CO-OPERATIVE.

While these interests were boosting farmers' co-operatives generally, they were engaged energetically in cutting the throats of these two farmers' co-operatives in North Dakota. The writer of this article was in North Dakota at that time. The Fargo plant had a manager, whose actions were strikingly like those of a paid wrecker. This plant and the one planned at Huron had not only the deadly and treacherous opposition of the meat packers to fight, but they were trying to make a beginning during the period of wild deflation, speculation, depression and readjustment following the war, when thousands of private businesses were failing every month. Had these farmer co-operatives bridged the thirteen billion dollar deflation of the farmers especially in a purely agricultural state like North Dakota, it would have been a miracle.

This is a fine example of capitalist sincerity and consistency in the promotion of farmers' co-operatives. While the Meat Trust is celebrating the destruction of two farmers' co-operatives in North Dakota, its agents, Condlee, Jardine, Capper and their political followers and the big daily papers owned by the Food Trust are still shouting that the FARMERS CO-OPERATIVES ARE THE ONLY SOLUTION OF THE AGRICULTURAL QUESTION.

THE FARMERS' CO-OPERATIVES ARE A REMEDY. THEY ARE DESIRABLE. BUT CAN DEVELOP INTO PERMANENT USEFULNESS ONLY AS THE FARMERS IN CO-OPERATION WITH ALL OTHER PRODUCERS AND WORKERS DEVELOP THE POLITICAL STATE FAVORABLE TO CO-OPERATION.

Richard Ford, Imprisoned Twelve  
Years, Is Found to Be Innocent

By Eugene V. Debs.

A very small press dispatch printed in an obscure corner of the capitalist dailies reads as follows:

"Richard 'Blackie' Ford, charged with the murder of Deputy Sheriff Eugene Reardon, during the Wheatland hop field riots of 1913, was acquitted by a jury late today after 77 hours of deliberation."

This innocent looking little dispatch is of immense significance to the labor and Socialist movements. It reports the end of one of the most outrageous persecutions that ever blackened the court records of this country.

The worst hop ranch where the strike occurred was the vilest slave pen on the Pacific coast. Richard Ford and Herman Suhr were the leaders of the 2,500 slaves, men, women, and children employed there. The place was filthy, disease-breeding, revolving to the last degree. Ford and Suhr sought by perfectly peaceable and legitimate means to better the appalling condition of these hop-picking slaves. When Ford presented the grievances to the latter, the latter slapped him in his face with his gauntlet. This was the beginning of the outrages to which these leaders were subjected for daring to espouse the cause of these oppressed and suffering victims of the hop-fields.

Later, an armed posse swooped down on the hop ranch and without any provocation began to club the strikers. The posse was headed by the District Attorney, the Sheriff and a lot of deputies, all armed.

At this instant a true hero appeared in the person of a Porto Rican negro. He flashed into glory in an immortal instant. When a brutal deputy sheriff pushed his gun against the breast of a Swedish girl the heroic negro seized a club, cracked the deputy sheriff's head with it, and in the riot that followed shot dead both the district attorney and the deputy sheriff.

The next instant a charge of buckshot fired by a deputy sheriff ended his noble life.

Richard Ford and Herman Suhr had absolutely no connection with the killing. They were both unarmed. But

class and begin to live without working, they will stand for it—they will live, as they have in the past, in hope, and die, in despair.

But knowing how tremendous the incomes of the rich are can have little or no effect on those incomes. They will continue to flow into the pockets of the rich—and out of the toll of the poor.

Admit That Political Action by the Workers  
Is Their Greatest Obstacle

The Socialist Party of Milwaukee by its use of the political power of the workers is the principal obstacle in the path of the open shop movement of Milwaukee to smash the labor unions. This is the tribute paid Socialism and political action by labor in a recent resolution adopted by the Milwaukee Employers' Council, the open shop organization of that city.

This resolution inaugurates a drive to smash the Socialist Party of Milwaukee and oust it from public office as the first step in destroying the labor organizations. It is a striking acknowledgement by the labor-hating employers that the Socialist Party is the formidable champion of labor in the political field and that political action by the workers is powerful and effective in the struggle of labor against the employers.

## Will Raise Slush Fund

The defunct Voters' League is to be revived as the smoke screen behind which the open shoppers are to hide in a smashing attack to get rid of the Socialist Party once and for all in Milwaukee preparatory to the destruction of organized labor. Open shop leaders are hinting at a slush fund for their drive on the Socialists at least four times as big as the fund of \$20,000 they claim they spent last year in their drive on the unions.

The thing that particularly angers the open shoppers are city and county ordinances, passed largely as a result of the solid support given them by the Socialist aldermen and supervisors, providing that contractors engaged on city and county work must pay the employees the prevailing rate of pay—virtually the union rate.

"We have contested the legality of the wage ordinances in the lower court and through the state supreme court, when a decision adverse to us was given," declared one of the leading contractors at a dinner of the organization. "Now the only remedy is the ballot. We must seek men who cannot be controlled by the Socialists or organized labor as candidates for positions in public office."

## The Resolution

The resolution adopted by the Milwaukee Employers' Council in part is as follows:

"When this open shop movement was started in 1920 it was probably not anticipated that our work would lead us into the political field, or that the strength of the closed union shop would be found so largely in our public affairs, as experience has shown it is.

"Your leaders in the local movement have arrived at the conclusion, which amounts to a conviction, that so far as Milwaukee is concerned, at least, the remedy for closed shop unionism is so largely political that we cannot afford to remain aloof from politics, so called, no matter how alien it may seem at first glance to our declared object.

"Organized labor, which stands for the closed shop and all that goes with it, has no great influence in the private business life of this community, and that influence, such as it is, can easily be broken up by our own members when we fully realize their duty, but they have acquired an ascendancy in public life, through the Socialists, that will be more difficult to remove and which can be removed in no other way than by participating in the selection and election of candidates for public office, and making full use of our rights and privileges as citizens, which we have not, for a long time, done.

"Our Socialists are in a minority in every way, but they act in concert, and our so-called 'nonpartisans' do not. There are plenty of excuses but no good reason why our nonpartisan aldermen, supervisors, assemblymen, and state senators should allow themselves to be influenced by their Socialist colleagues to the detriment of public affairs, as we believe they do."

## A Conspicuous Example

The Socialist Party has long been a powerful factor in the political life of Milwaukee. While it is still a minority party, its strength is such that it has forced the two old parties into an unholy and decrepit alliance, miscalled Nonpartisan. Daniel W. Hoan, a Socialist, is the mayor of Milwaukee for the third time by sheer ability, integrity and popularity.

As in Europe and in most countries of the world, the Socialist Party of Milwaukee works in close harmony with the organized labor movement, voices the immediate demands of organized labor, assists organized labor in its struggles for better conditions, and Socialists in office are largely members and representatives of organized labor.

Milwaukee is one of the few localities in the United States where the Socialist Party has had an opportunity to demonstrate that it is really and truly the party of, for and by the workers, and to illustrate in a limited way the enormous possibilities of political action to defend the interests of labor, better its condition and win its world-wide fight for emancipation.

Government Data Show Prices  
Going Up and Wages Going Down

That the American wage earner is slipping, slipping, slipping in the majority of cases to a lower standard of living is indicated by the latest report from the government in Washington on the increasing cost of living.

It cost a wage earner's family 2 1/2 per cent more to live in December than in June and 4 per cent more than in December, 1924, according to the semi-annual report of the U. S. Department of Labor. The report shows an increase of approximately 78 per cent in the cost of a family budget compared with 1913.

The latest rise in the cost of living began the latter half of 1924. Since June of that year the total increase amounts to just over 5 per cent. Over June, 1922, when the lowest point since the war was reached, December, 1925, shows an increase of 7 per cent. Workers should receive wages at least 7 per cent above 1922 to give them as much food, clothing, fuel, etc., as in that year.

This is an actual wage loss of 7 per cent compared with the cost of living since 1922. If wages all along the line have not been raised 7 per cent in dollars and cents, the workers have slipped downward to a lower standard of living.

As a matter of fact there has been no such rule except in some most favored cases. ON THE CONTRARY THERE HAS BEEN A GENERAL LOWERING OF WAGES SINCE 1920, ACCORDING TO GOVERNMENT FIGURES.

The New York World finds that the "average per capita wages of the factory workers in New York state are below the 1920 level. So are the pay roll figures reported by the U. S. Department of Labor."

Continuing the World says: "That department also reports the average hourly wage of com-

mon labor in this country at 38 cents compared with 49 cents in 1920. Farm labor is now receiving an average of \$49 per month compared with \$65 in 1920."

A rise of 7 per cent in the cost of living in the last three years accompanied by the lowering of wages for common labor in industry and on the farm of 20 per cent in the last five years, AND THESE FIGURES ARE THE GOVERNMENT'S, is so unusual as to be most alarming. Such a process could not continue long at this speed without confronting the workers and the country itself with dire disaster.

Descending wages accompanied by ascending prices represent the other side of the enormously increasing earning powers of corporations, the tremendously increasing centralization of wealth, THE RAPIDLY ACCUMULATING SURPLUS OF AMERICAN BIG BUSINESS. If we cannot stop these accumulations, these surpluses, prices will continue to rise and wages decrease—for these capitalist accumulations can come only from increasing prices and decreasing wages.

The 257 Republicans and Democrats in the Lower House of Congress who voted ratification of the atrocious Mussolini debt deal have smeared themselves with the blood of the crushed and murdered workers of Italy. They are consciously or ignorantly assassins of democracy and liberty in the world-wide struggle now going on between progress and reaction. If they do not understand that they should be relegated at once to private life as hopeless ignoramuses or morons. If they do understand, they are as definitely a part of the capitalist White Terror as the bloody henchmen of Mussolini in Italy.

"After carefully reading this copy, give it to a friend. Thank you."

## "Friendless and Forgotten" War Heroes Denied a Decent Burial

Eugene V. Debs.

We knew it in advance and frankly said so at the time Wall Street was getting ready to force this nation into the international slaughter.

Now comes the "confirmation strong as holy writ" and with it complete vindication.

Chicago Chapter No. 2 of the Disabled American Veterans of the World War, has written to a Chicago newspaper bitterly denouncing the treatment accorded to the bodies of the World War heroes who died at the Speedway Hospital, Chicago. We quote from this letter as it appears in the capitalist press as follows, commending it to our readers as worthy of careful consideration:

"Friendless and forgotten they are lowered into their graves in a desolate and barren corner of the cemetery without a sympathetic word. Their names are written on a slip of paper attached to a tin stick stuck in the ground. The first wash of rain erases their names and the unfortunate bodies become unknown soldiers."

"That is the kind of monuments that these brave men who died for their country receive from the richest nation in all the world. That is the kind of treatment heroes receive after suffering years of pain and anguish."

"Protestations to the authorities have been futile so now we turn to you, tried and true friend of the wounded and disabled ex-servicemen, to help us secure the headlines to which our dead comrades are entitled. As the representative of the Disabled American Veterans of the World War I earnestly entreat you to aid in this matter."

"We are merely asking that the officials abide by the law and furnish the headlines that congress has allowed for these men who have given everything for their country."

Commenting on the foregoing complaint and denunciation of Chicago Chapter No. 2 of the Disabled American Veterans of the World War the Terre Haute Daily Tribune lets go scathingly as follows:

"That letter describes a condition so deplorable, so heartless and so disgraceful as to be almost unbelievable. To be told that the bodies of our soldiers who die in a hospital as wards of this government from wounds received while fighting under the flag of the United States are dumped into the ground as carelessly as so much rubbish is enough to enrage the most pacific citizen."

Cannon fodder.

Yes, we knew it in advance and because we dared to say so we were charged with treason and denounced as traitors to the country.

We knew then and we know now the post war value of human cannon fodder. The heroes marching to the trenches for slaughter are no longer heroes after the slaughter is ended. They are then fit only to be "dumped into the ground as so much rubbish," as stated by the Tribune.

Now in the above disgraceful exposure of how the dead soldiers of capitalism are actually treated we also have an illuminating unmasking of the hypocrites in high official places who periodically march in state to "the grave of the unknown soldier," shed crocodile tears while bearing a wreath the size of a cart-wheel, and being carefully "taken" by the camera man for the movies and for the pictorial sections of the great dailies to show what profound reverence the capitalist government has for the "heroes" who served as cannon fodder for it, while the profiteers were using the same government and all the powers it conferred to loot the nation and stack up millions and billions as the reward of their heroism for staying in the rear and guarding the coils of the realm.

Rank Hypocrisy.

Oh, what bunk, what fraud, what rank hypocrisy, and what disgusting sham and false pretense!

To see Coolidge trying to look solemn with a wreath in his hands for the "unknown soldier," to behold Taft the ponderous waddling up to the same grave with another mammoth wreath while the multitude holds its breath in agonizing awe, is to marvel at the utter blind and all but hopeless stupidity of the people in allowing themselves to be deceived by such a rank skin game, to be flummoxed by such a cheap, come-over exhibition.

Coolidge and Taft would no more have associated with that unknown soldier, were he living, especially if black instead of white, than they would have stayed over night at the shanty of some section hand.

The whole fraudulent ceremony is pulled off for no other purpose on earth than to impress upon the vast untalented herd what a heroic thing it is to serve as cannon fodder for the ruling class.

Some day Coolidge or Taft may tearfully lay a wreath on your grave to the clicking of cameras if you will only realize the enormous privilege of being slaughtered for their profit and glory.

It is nothing more nor less than a subtle scheme to inculcate the military spirit and to lead to preparedness, for armies and navies and gas bombs and destroyers of all kinds; a three shell game played to assure a plentiful supply of "heroes" for the next grand international slaughter to establish "peace on earth and good will to men."

## Norway Socialists Gain

The recent local elections in Norway resulted in a gain of 34 votes for the Social Democratic Party and a loss of 45 votes by the Norwegian Labor Party. A total of 287 Social Democrats were elected to local councils. 416 Laborites and 109 Communists. This shows a decided swing toward the Socialist party. Several years ago when communist influence was at its height the Labor Party leaned toward the communists, rather than toward the Socialists. Not only does the Labor Party lean now more toward the Socialists, but there is a steady return of the Socialist or Social Democratic Party to its old position of leadership in the labor movement. In Sweden and Denmark where there were no strong communist developments the Socialist party is the strongest party and controls the cabinets.

## To Check Red Cross Work in Coal Fields

Does the Red Cross live up to its professions of neutrality and impartiality in case of a labor conflict in America, or does it still adhere to the practices it followed in Russia during the Wilson administration of relieving distress and starvation only among the defenders of capitalist rule?

Socialist Assemblyman Thomas M. Duncan of the 21st Ward, Milwaukee, has taken steps that ought to reveal the answer to this question. He has written J. Barton Payne, president, National Red Cross, requesting a complete summary of the activities of the Red Cross in the anthracite coal fields during the present national disaster centering there.

"Both the labor unions and the individual members thereof," said Comrade Duncan, "contribute annually to the support of Red Cross and there is much local interest in the question of the extent to which that organization requested."

Comrade Duncan's letter to Mr. Payne says in part:

"From time to time, money is collected here for the Red Cross, and many of the subscribers will be anxious to learn of the activities of the Red Cross organization in warding off starvation in the artificially created famine area of Pennsylvania."

## SAM SAYS

SAM SAYS: A reformer puts him in mind of a man that swallowed a potato bug, then took a dose of Paris green to kill the bug. (We want a new society, not a patched-up one.)

SAM SAYS: He heard of a man that was such a prohibition crank that he would not eat the chickens because they roosted in an apple tree. (Send the chickens to the striking miners.)

SAM SAYS: When the profiteer wines and dines and dances in a swell place with the vamps, he says: "I'm as good a friend of labor as the next man, but there is no denying the fact that workmen do spend their money foolishly."

## Moloch.

The New York State Commission of Prisons reports that out of 977 prisoners received last year in the county penitentiary, Eastview, New York, 141 were 21 years old or under; 28 were 21 years old; 37 were 20; 27 were 19; 38 were 18, eight were 17 and nine were 16. Frequent juvenile delinquency exists all over the United States. Capitalism in the last stages of decay, like Moloch, is devouring the young of the race. We cannot end the present system too soon.

## City to Own Coal Mine

A city with a big coal mine all its own to supply its citizens with coal at cost of production and distribution, with no profiteering, no necessity for strikes and no prospects of a tie-up of the industry and a shortage of coal—this is the alluring prospect that confronts Sidney, Australia. Sidney is controlled by the Labor Party, a Socialist organization, and that party in the city council has voted for a municipal coal mine for Sidney.

## Municipal Bank

The city of Birmingham, England, owns and operates with great success its own bank. From \$4,000,000 in 1920, it now has deposits totalling \$16,000,000. Even the Tory paper, the Observer is surprised "that municipalities are not encouraged to follow the example of the Birmingham City Council in establishing municipal banks."

This bank, owned and operated by the people, is giving the people better terms and better service than the average private banks, and it takes a dangerous power from private hands.

When the workers become too intelligent and self-respecting to slaughter one another like beasts there will be no more war in the world.

The class struggle is a fact and no amount of sophistication can do away with it until classes cease to exist and the will of the people is supreme.

Industrial organization is the foundation of the movement for industrial emancipation.

Socialism is the most pregnant term and theme now agitating the minds of the masses and threatening the end of capitalist oppression and misrule.

To secure a subscriber for the Appeal is to strike a blow for freedom.

## Appeal Army Column

From Dr. Geo. Walby Van Pelt, Takoma Park, Md.:

I have just finished the January third number and I am so overwhelmed with its many glorious articles that I can express my feeling only by sending you my check for five dollars.

I especially delight in the two articles "Youth and the Church," and "Vast growth of Socialism among American Churches Alarms Writers." Give us more of such articles as often as you can.

Our old friend Max Hayes, of The Cleveland Citizen, published an announcement of The Appeal which closes with the following encouraging paragraph:

"The first number makes a good appearance typographically and is a check full of educational matter. Here's wishing success and long life to the new arrival."

T. E. Williams, Punksentawney, Pa., has the right idea. "Kindly send me about two dozen envelopes and order blanks," he says, "I would like to get the men I have been giving these papers to, to sign up and become subscribers."

If all of the Army will follow that suggestion, we will soon have a substantial list of subscribers. Don't start off with enthusiasm and then slack up. Get a follow up system and go after subscribers.

Some folks thought they saw northern lights the other night but we'll tell them. The old Appeal Army went forward toward the goal in an attack that lit up the skies; that's what happened. They just keep coming!

Here's Earl Sutton of The Farmers' Cooperative Society, Farmington, Ill. He sends twelve subs and wants a bundle of fifty. He knows that in order to support the cooperative movement we must have socialism. We hope that bundle will make others see the same important fact.

W. L. Wallace of Lamar, Col., sends a sub and a bundle order for fifty. He also wants a copy of "Debs and The War." He says, "The plutocrats have had their day and they make good use of it for themselves. It is high time to call them to a halt."

G. F. Willis, Dothan, Ala., sends best regards and many good wishes with a subscription and an order for back numbers.

C. C. Caldwell, a minute-man from Cogar, Okla., sends two subs and an order for back numbers.

Tony Spadafora, Rome, N. Y., sends for machine-gun ammunition. He wants a bundle of fifty and he sends two more subs.

Another scripper, W. H. Pitt, Acampo, Cal., sends a shot; one sub and a bundle of fifty.

E. E. Hilliard, a regular from New Castle, Pa., comes back again for shot of fifty. Louis Moze, New York, and U. G. Rison, Columbus, Ohio, both want bundles of twenty-five.

We're sure going to hit the "Hub," Alfred Baker Lewis sends for twenty a week for Boston. "Hang a lantern aloft in the Old North Church," Comrade Lewis.

What will happen when Butte wakes up? Jas. D. Graham, Livingston, Montana, orders five a week for each of five sharpshooters in Butte. He says "Our party will come back strong in Butte before long."

Just as the editor settled down to write a nice little philosophical editorial here's the office boy, "Holy Smoke!" We checked for a smoke screen but he came right through. Here are some of them: W. B. Prices West Terre Haute, Indiana, sends eight yearlies and J. Lachter, Philadelphia, sends seven, and Otto Merz, Racine, Wisconsin, six.

Some more came in bunches of five: O. A. Kennedy, Ogden, Utah; G. Miller, Pontiac, Mich.; Samuel Shindler, Hurleyville, New York.

Here's one from A. Levitz, Detroit, Mich., with one for The Book Nook. You have the right idea, comrade. The Appeal should be in every "Book Nook" and reading room.

Henry Whited, Farmington, Ill. and R. Bojlenik, Nokomis, Ill., each send six. Jacob McQuinn, Connecticut, Ohio sends eight six-month subs and H. Ingber, six.

What about "The Spirit of '76"? P. R. Sharp, Okla., sends four subs. His letter says, "I will do what little I can to help inform the people what all this is. I am quite old though and can't do much. I am half past eighty-five."

Here's another. Dr. J. G. Thomas, Coalgate, Okla., eighty-eight years of age sends two subs. His letter to Comrade Debs says, "My dear, dear old comrade, I have thought of you and have seen you in my dreams shut in by prison walls. But no Bastille is sufficient to hold the truth."

## State Liquor Control

For a number of years Sweden has had in effect government ownership and distribution of liquor. One phase of this system of public ownership is what is called the Bratt Liquor Law. A press dispatch from Stockholm dated January 22, says:

The Bratt Liquor law, which licenses every consumer, appears to be reducing drunkenness in this country. Before this system was adopted the arrests for drunkenness numbered 17,696, while last year there were only 2,253. The consumption of spirits, however, while little more than half that in former days, shows a slight increase. In 1921 it was 12.1 liters per inhabitant, while in 1925 it was 12.3 liters (one liter equals 1.0567 quarts).

## Capper Defends His War Dictator Bill

In this week's issue of Capper's Weekly an attempt is made to defend the Capper Johnson military bill by Senator Capper, co-author of this infamous measure.

This measure, under the guise of "conscription" wealth, would make the President an absolute dictator during time of war and invest him with the power to conscript the entire able-bodied manhood of the nation for war purposes, and all labor both as to service and wages.

Says this article in part:

"The bill is broad enough to meet all wartime emergencies. THE PRESIDENT MAY ASSUME FULL CONTROL AND ACT AT HIS DISCRETION. Provision is made for supplemental legislation if needed."

"The chief aim of the Capper-Johnson bill is to provide for conscription of all the nation's resources on an equal basis with its man power. But it goes much further than that. The President is given power to regulate prices of all commodities, INCLUDING WAGES, WHETHER REQUIRED BY THE GOVERNMENT OR CIVILIAN."

This bill has an excellent chance of being passed at this session of Congress. BOTH NATIONAL PARTIES INDORSE IN PRINCIPLE IN 1924. No active opposition has shown itself so far, ALTHOUGH IT WILL APPEAR, NO DOUBT, AND IT WILL BE WELL FOR THE PUBLIC TO CHECK UP ON SUCH OPPOSITION TAKING NOTE WHERE IT ORIGINATES AND WHAT FORM IT TAKES."

It would be well to check up on Senator Capper right in connection with this last statement. In it he is launching the same methods of spying, intimidation and terrorism to put the measure over that were so successfully used to put over the World War.

## Berger Demands U. S. Rebuke Fascist Rule

WASHINGTON—A resolution authorizing and directing the president to inform Mussolini's representatives that this country "views with concern and alarm" the overthrow of democracy and the aspirations for world domination avowed by that regime has been introduced in the house by Representative Victor L. Berger, Socialist, Ist. Wisconsin.

The socialist congressman's resolution is a slashing attack on Fascist tyranny. It reviews the evidence on which the proposed protest is based, and cites the recent "practical cancellation" of Italy's war debt to the United States as a reason why this country is in a position to voice its views. That this country previously has taken similar action to protect national minorities also is cited.

Millions of Americans are concerned in the Fascist outrages, the resolution adds, because they have been imposed upon Catholics, Free Masons and trade unionists, all of which groups have sympathetic associates in America.

## Weeping Charley

Charles M. Schwab of the Bethlehem Steel Company. In a recent speech in Chicago, said: "I would be willing to see all the millions I have invested in the steel industry sunk in the middle of the Atlantic if that would serve to do away permanently with war."

Now, really, Charley? Let's see—weren't you one of the mighty men in the Carnegie Steel Company when that company sold steel armor to the Russian Tsar's government at a price lower than the same company charged the United States government for the same armor? How about it, Charley?

Let me give you a tip, Mr. Schwab, if you are eager to drive war from the world thru the use of your fortune. Devote ten million dollars to a 100-page book. In this book present 100 pictures of actual war; give the names and addresses of the men in the United States and other countries who piled up enormous profits on the recent war; give the names and addresses of all the young American millionaires who were killed in the war; and also put in this book an urgent call to all the workers of all the world to refuse to go to war until the sons of millionaires are placed and kept in the front ranks of every army in the world as long as the war lasts or until they are killed. Print this book in twenty-five of the leading languages of the world and pour your message into the imagination of the workers of the world. It will require far less than all of your millions to accomplish this.

A man who depends upon another for a job has a parasite on his back and a mortgage on his soul.

## Chicago Board to End Free Discussion in Its Schools

A clear and unmistakable revelation of the capitalistic agencies behind the control of education in the public schools of America comes from Chicago.

The board of education in Chicago has just discovered the alarming fact that history teachers have no supervisor other than the principal and the further frightful condition that an outline of history has been used in the eighth grade which gives the pupils an opportunity to discuss optional subjects.

The board is tremendously excited. Among the optional subjects that the history class has had liberty to discuss are the following under the head of "social studies" which the Appeal reproduces exactly as they appeared in the capitalist papers announcing this harrowing development:

Pacifism; the League of Nations; bolshevism and the soviets; the initiative and referendum; the liquor question, wet or dry.

## Controllers Shocked

"Many trustees and teachers and laymen," says a press article announcing this event, "regard this syllabus as one of the most astonishing appendages ever planned to a public school curriculum. Trustees and many teachers are disturbed over the tendencies and opportunities for propaganda lurking in this optional syllabus."

Seldom has the capitalistic nature of the thought-controllers of the public schools of America been more clearly revealed than in the reactions of this board to this optional syllabus. It has discovered in the Chicago schools.

Here are some of their reactions as revealed by the press treatment of parts of the offending syllabus.

"The optional history outline for 8-9 graders, in setting forth its purposes, has an international rather than a national aroma. It lays weight on developing the feeling that 'we are citizens in a mutually dependent world community'—the regulation League of Nations stuff."

The greatest tribute ever paid to the power of Socialism is the desperate effort of the American thought-controllers to keep public school pupils from even discussing it.

The class room is no place of lams, declares the capitalistic Chicago school board—how about Americanism and patriotism, not to mention Republicanism?

Let's see—Is it fifteen or eighteen times that the bankers were going to have the world by a conference which on trial flashed in the pan?

Most important of all this syllabus sets forth an one of its purposes to develop a definite attitude toward the world's oldest and most pressing problem—the abolition of war forever."

"But the pacifist tendency and the international bent are not the only things accounted queer in this history syllabus. Under the subtitle, 'The New Democracy in the United States,' the outline starts off with a little propaganda for the initiative and referendum. The I. and R. have been highly controversial matter around these parts for a long, long time. It is paraded thus in this syllabus:

"The Initiative: How this tool takes power from the political bosses and big interests."

Indubitably this last shot from the despot. Pupils must not even discuss it; the schools in our supposed democracy such a possibility as a democratic instrument for taking power from the political bosses and big interests; they cannot discuss the abolition of war; they cannot so much as bring up the subject of the unity of the human race in a civilized world community.

Here is what this board proposes to do:

"It is intended to serve notice on any and all that the class rooms are no place for lams, and to avow that the schools have got back strong to the original principles for which the American free public school system was established. Among these, educators are shouting, are to 'provide for the common defense' and 'promote the general welfare.'"

But they seem to omit "secure the blessings of liberty."

## Socialist Party News

The National Office of the Socialist Party  
2653 Washington Boulevard  
Chicago, Illinois.

The American Appeal, published at the National Headquarters, is the national organ of the Socialist Party.

If you have no local organization in your community you should have one. If you can't organize a local, send us a dollar for enrollment as a member at large. We want to furnish you with a red card of membership on which you can paste your stamps of evidence of membership and cooperation.

Letters like the following are coming to the National Office with increasing frequency:

"I have received the American Appeal and enjoy reading it very much. I am not a member of the Socialist Party, but I am a Socialist and I will join the party the first opportunity. I have recently induced several of my friends to subscribe for the American Appeal, and I shall continue my effort in propaganda for the movement. But I think we should have a local organization."

## Correct!

The National Office would welcome a thousand such letters in the next ten days. Readers of the American Appeal everywhere, anywhere, who are Socialists but are not party members, yet realize the need of organized effort to accomplish the great work to be done—all these are urged to write the National Office, for cooperation in finding and rounding up others who would and could join a local Socialist organization.

Extending our party organization is of first importance right now. Through the American Appeal, Socialists have a new means of finding old detached Socialists and new Socialists who can now more easily and promptly get together.

The National Office is your general agency in such organization enterprises. Write at once. Let's get together and move on, co-operatively.

Trenton, New Jersey, is to be placed on the map of the movement again, reorganized, and soon. Comrade Morris Moser is rounding up the Socialists of the community for a new local, and he is going after them with a right good will.

Comrade Waltherine of local Red Bluff, California, orders literature and writes:

"Local Cottonwood, recently organized by Emil Hornum, showed great enthusiasm at its first regular meeting. The number in attendance was more than twice the regular membership. They showed their enthusiasm by expressing their willingness to distribute Socialist literature and carry on propaganda work."

Comrade James L. Smiley, state secretary for Maryland, writes that he began clipping good things from the American Appeal for his scrapbook but promptly concluded he would do better by keeping the entire paper. He feels sure that the paper will be immensely helpful in building up the organization.

St. Paul, Minn., secretary for the New England District writes:

"The comrades are making every effort to raise the \$1 assessment that has been levied upon every party member in the district. . . . The District office is planning to engage speakers of national reputation, and an active campaign for subscribers for the American Appeal. Tickets are being sold for the August Classroom lectures at Providence, Lynn, Worcester, and Boston. . . . The next meeting of the General District Committee will be held on Feb. 7, at 10:30 a.m. at Socialist Headquarters, 21 Essex street, Boston. Party members are urged to attend this meeting and contribute suggestions for future party activities."

Local Boston is going strong. Both the English and the Jewish branches are getting into the old time stride in party-building enterprises, in propaganda, in promoting labor legislation and in its expression of interest in the world's affairs in general and national affairs in particular.

The young people have organized a circle at Rockland, Maine; at Westport, Rhode Island; and are organizing at Worcester, Mass. Put your young people in touch with Comrade Aaron S. Parker at once (See Young People's Department).

This from Beaverton, Oregon: Send me instructions. I will try to organize a local here. . . . There are thousands of comrades who should be writing just such letters.

Local Bridgeport, Connecticut, is boosting the public ownership of the coal mines. At a recent meeting of the local it was planned to proceed with this work in close cooperation with local organized labor bodies. The Bridgeport comrades urge similar cooperative activities everywhere.

Here is news from a live one at La Salle, Illinois: "Enclosed find check for \$15.00 for 14 subs. I am getting some of the old members back that have not been with us in many years. The Appeal will hold them. I am now going out to make a collection for the bundle order."

Comrade Monk of Youngstown, Ohio, is enthusiastic for the American Appeal as a means of finding and assembling Socialists in hundreds of communities for organization. He wants the members-at-large to get busy for local organizations; urges them to write the National Office for cooperation.

## With Appeal Readers

### An Interested Youth.

A sixteen-year-old comrade of Chicago writes the Appeal endorsing the Appeal's fight for peace, but objecting to the Appeal's use of such military designations as "The Appeal Army Column" and the "Bundle Brigade." He further says: "I am receiving the Appeal regularly. It comes to me as a Christmas present, and I can honestly say that I like it the best of any I received this year. I do not belong to the Socialist party, but I am doing all I can for Socialism at school." Such interest, understanding and activity from a comrade so young is one of the most encouraging signs of the times.

### Work-Unit Dollars

Mamie Schellenberg, Arkansas City, Kansas, writes advocating what she calls work-unit dollars for the exchange of products. In other words, the labor-time incorporated in the production of one article would exchange for the same amount of labor-time incorporated in another article. This was the idea of Karl Marx, founder of modern Socialism. "Where would the capitalistic class be in a world of freed natural resources and labor products exchanged on this basis?" she asks. It would be nix.

### Gold Plumbing for Rich

A comrade writes the Appeal that a Trenton, N. J., firm which makes up plumbing for the rich employs a friend of his whose job is to turn down the brass plumbing about a quarter of an inch, which is then covered with gold. Sometimes he has to turn on the lathe for two or three days before he can get a piece that can be turned without air bubbles being shown. Air bubbles cause the gold to peel off. A quarter of an inch of gold on one of these baubles of the rich would probably represent the income of a worker for a year.

### Minister's View of Socialism

Rev. F. E. Cox of Oklahoma City writes the Appeal:

"I beg to call your attention to the fact that I am a Socialist because Socialism is the doctrine of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Furthermore, if we Americans can succeed in establishing the doctrine of Christ here in our existence, it will eventually give us His everlasting Kingdom, or true Socialism, under the American flag. It is useless for our religious and political leaders to ignore, condemn or deny this truth any longer."

## Corporation Lawyers

George Walker Williams of Passaic, New Jersey, sends in a clipping about a loudly touted national meeting of the Bar Association and remarks:

"These men are writing with a view that they are superior to other men. Environment may make a difference in men, but the environment of a man in the so-called privileged class is no better than the environment of the poor man. There are more poor people than there are privileged people. The percentage of inferior types among the poor is no greater than the percentage of inferior types in the privileged class, and there are many inferior types of people who do not lack brains and would be normal if they did not have to keep up the everlasting fight to keep up with or pass the crowd."

All of which we agree to and we arise to remark: What an infernal joke are the superior airs of some of these corporation lawyers, anyway.

## Missionaries Turned Murderers.

"Ave Marie," a Catholic publication, Notre Dame, Indiana, gives us this nice picture of French imperialism in Syria: "On reliable authority it is stated that 68 members of the French religious community were mobilized—some of them were killed—during the recent uprising of the Druses in Syria. . . . At no time during the World War, even with disaster most threatening, did the German government oblige ministers of religion to bear arms. A bishop in Syria tells us that it will be a half century before the scandal of 'missionaries turned murderers,' as one of the natives expressed it, is entirely removed from the Far East. 'Your hands are red with the blood of your brethren,' said a Mohammedan chief to a missionary who fought as a soldier in France; 'and you come back here and tell us that your God is a God of love and peace! Go home, and remain there with your Christian dogs!'"

## Socialism in Scotland.

At a recent election in Scotland the Socialist party polled 550,000 votes. The Scottish industrial union has been organized "to oppose the Socialist and Bolshevik propaganda and to resist state control over industry and commerce. It appeals: 'Socialism is against your trading for private profits.'"

Think of Socialism. The kick has gone out of Republican and Democratic dope.

## Wot Chance?

Been in a dirty, reekin' slum,  
Where decent sunlight never come,  
An' starved for food an' starved for  
air,  
Through all my years of boyhood  
there.

Wot chance things an' low an' mean  
Was nearly all the life I seen,  
Of course I grewed to be a tough  
A hoodlum an' a bad young rough.

O yes, I'm guilty; that is clear,  
An' every guy who's listenin' here,  
An' if you swell, an' you good folks  
Who sniffs at me, an' such like  
blokes,

Is guilty, too, along o' me,  
An' will be 'til the life is free,  
Of drinkin' slums an' rotten holes  
An' poison people's hearts 'n'  
souls.

An' wats 'em from their very birth  
From any decent chance on earth,  
I say, wot chance, wot chance  
Was mine?

—Anon.

## Brain-Drops

By GLENGARRY

CAPITALISM,  
GIVEN from cover,  
LAST STRUGGLE  
STRENGTHEN its life,  
STINGING to PROMOTING  
EXPLOITATION MONOPOLIES  
TENTACLES embrace  
EXPLOITATION,  
EXPLOITING men  
ABOUT IT CAN control  
THE HEAD  
ALL these,  
YOU can tell  
THE CHARACTER  
OF REPRESENTATIVES  
AND BLINDNESS  
OF THE "RAIN WORKS"  
THE COMMON people  
WAS deeply EXTOL  
THE RULE AND RUN  
BORN OF capitalism

BECAUSE  
"RAIN WORKS"  
"SHUT DOWN"  
WANT OF problems,  
THE WE ECHO  
OF MASTER'S voice  
WAS DEPLORE  
THE POPEFULNESS  
OF GROWING numbers  
WAS TO advance  
THE NEW ERA  
OF INDUSTRIAL DEMOCRACY;  
THE PEOPLE'S ownership  
OF PUBLIC utilities;  
ALL production for USE  
AND NONE for PROFIT;  
A TIME OF ABUNDANCE  
FOR EVERY body;  
A SONG in every HEART,  
A SMILE on every face.

ALL THE DESIRABLE gifts  
OF NATURE'S liberality  
SHOULD BE PORTION  
OF THE HUMAN RACE  
AND SOCIALISM  
SHOULD BE CALMLY AND ABLY  
MINIMATES the last PLAGUE,  
AND DESTROYS the LAST root  
OF CAPITALISM  
WHICH RUINOUS rule  
HAS BEEN ASSIGNED  
TO POWER OF LIFE  
ABUNDANT to FEW)  
AND OF DEATH  
ABUNDANT to MANY),  
THE LIBERAL  
DISTRIBUTION OF POVERTY—  
A PURE SOURCE  
OF ALL its wealth.

## The Indirect Appeal

By Lincoln Phifer

To secure their rights are  
To have their wrongs.

Liberty is decent.  
Workers are "done in oil."  
Given a cur and it will bite you  
bad, but a blunder is some-  
times

English is generally hard to turn.  
When one goes, the lowlier he

Of plenty make sweet music,  
And wealth are plentiful but  
hard.

Rule may be either calf or  
bull.  
Calling a spade a spade con-  
fusing? What else is it?  
Serious means something that  
is before. Some men are like

body who wants you to do  
for him smiles. And you  
do it. Therefore don't smile.  
Count to nothing as compared  
with. Before the ideas they  
nothing. Whenever the whole  
becomes any idea, be it great or  
small, becomes gigantic and tragic.

## An Idle City Full

Year in the state of Washing-  
ton were 40,000 industrial acci-  
dents, resulting a loss of 16 days to  
each citizen. This is  
a permanent idleness of  
workers. The system is so effi-

Cooperation in Britain.  
The cooperative societies in Great Brit-  
ain have a business aggregat-  
ing a hundred million dollars.

## Young People's Department

National Office  
YOUNG PEOPLE'S SOC. LEAGUE  
20 Townsend St., Pittsburgh, Pa.  
Aaron J. Parker, Nat. Director.

## With the Circles

New England District. The district secretary made a visit to Westerly, R. I., last Saturday, addressing an audience consisting of young and old who are interested in the formation of a Yipsel circle in Westerly. A group of twenty-five indicated willingness to take steps in procuring a charter. That means we'll hear more from Westerly.

Worcester V. P. S. L. From all present indications the coming Class-  
less lectures will be rousing events. The Worcester circle alone has already sold a hundred tickets. The meetings are to be held each Friday evening during the month of February.

National Office. Inquiries concerning the Y. P. S. L. are commencing to flood the office. When inside of two weeks two new circles are organized, four report intentions of forming circles and affiliating with the league, and the existing circles report growth of membership. It certainly reflects an awakening of spirit.

Circle secretaries are requested to investigate whether the monthly report for December has been sent to this office.

Having had sufficient opportunity to become acquainted with this column of the Appeal you have probably had time to form some sort of an opinion regarding its make-up. Possibly it has been in accord with your beliefs, and possibly likely that there is much deserving criticism. There may be some feature that should be added, possibly something needs to be dropped.

We will all agree that the column must contain news from the Yipsel circles, but to make this possible the circles must extend their co-operation. While many circles have shown excellent spirit in sending news items, many others have not been heard from. Why not elect a special correspondent to send a brief letter each week describing the circle's activities.

In order that everything possible may be done to make this column a real Young People's Department, may we ask that you favor us with a frank expression of your opinion, by writing to the national office explaining your views and offering your suggestions.

Your cooperation will be most deeply appreciated.

## The Problem of Language

In the last two or three years all the Y. P. S. L. Circles have adopted the use of English in all their activities. While this has been undisputedly a progressive step, it has caused a loss of support of some party members of foreign language branches who believed that the young people had divorced themselves completely from their organization. This unfortunate attitude is particularly obvious in the small attendance of older members at the public affairs arranged by the young people, and the apparent lack of any desire to become interested. One is very likely to hear unfavorable comment, and some circles have been urged to adopt the language of the parent local, at least in their public affairs.

While unquestionably valuable work is being accomplished in the party ranks by members of foreign language locals, we can perhaps vaguely picture the marvelous results possible when these same locals shall be conducting their activities in the language of the country we live in. Many already existing influences will necessarily make such a transition complete within the next decade. Immigration is no longer a dependable source of new members for the foreign language locals. The first, and even more truly the second generation, cannot be forced to labor with a language which for all practical purposes is dead to them. Even the general progressive tendency amongst the older comrades, who have in recent years taken up the study of English, will sooner or later effect a change. With these overpowering influences demanding progress, what folly it would be to insist that our foreign parented young people should be handicapped with the awkward use of a foreign tongue.

From another viewpoint, supreme in our minds, when considering the purposes of all our activities, the mutual goal toward which we are striving, we will appreciate the comparative advantage of working with and without an interpreter. Adopting the only language through which our economic, industrial and political aims in this country can be actually materialized, we remove the language barrier entirely and open up an unrestricted path of advance. We create for the former foreign language locals a new source of membership, and bring into closer contact the young and old, now separated by this unnecessary wall.

In this task of transition lies an important mission of every Yipsel circle associated locally with a foreign language branch. By persistent and constant use of the English language in all affairs, the elders will soon understand the advantages of this change and will be influenced to strive for the same end. The change would be a decided advance, where the adoption of a foreign tongue by the young people would be a backward step for the entire organization.

## Choose Your Side

To the young people of our land in the present economic and social situation one thing is necessary and that is that they shall understand thoroughly that a great struggle is being waged against an outgrown and corrupt system and that they who would be counted among the actually living must choose their side, whichever it may be, and line up with those engaged in this struggle for or against a free working class and a better world.

There is no half way ground. The young people now growing up must be either for or against capitalism unless they are to be mere driftwood on the stream of life.

They who take the side of the oppressed and exploited must expect the rewards and penalties that always come to those who fight for a cause they believe to be right regardless of their own individual interests.

There is nothing easier than to be a popular nobody, to find the easy way and follow it to oblivion, leaving no trace behind.

It is not so easy to choose the unpopular side which is usually the right side, to cast your lot with the insignificant minority of "undesirable" people, and there take your stand and fight for liberty and justice, not for yourself alone, but for the very last and least of your fellowmen.

It is better far to have the world against you than to be against yourself. In the long run it is only he who is true to himself whose life is worth the living.

He may be reviled and treated as an outcast, but if true to the best he knows all good influences finally combine to prosper him in his life mission and preserve his name after he has passed away.

The young of the present day have their opportunity to join the rising social movement which has for its historic mission the sweeping away of the last system of human servitude and exploitation and establishing the kingdom of peace and justice throughout the world.—E. V. D.

## Women's Department

Josephine Conger

## Two Cents and Ten Minutes.

We want every woman reader of The American Appeal to petition the woman governor of Texas at once for the freedom from the Texas penitentiary of Charles Cline, J. M. Rangel, L. L. Vasquez, Jesus Gonzales, Abraham Cisneros, and Pedro Parlas.

The history of the imprisonment of these men is all but buried in the long forgotten past. Briefly, it is this: They sought to join in the revolution aimed at the overthrow of the tyranny of Porfirio Diaz, and the frightful pen system practiced on the plantations of Mexico under his regime.

Through misrepresentations of border politicians friendly to the Diaz rule, this long, heart-breaking imprisonment has been permitted. Petitions asking for the release of the men have recently been sent to the Governor and the Board of Pardons by the Farmer-Labor Union of America, the American Federation of Labor, the Mexican Federation of Labor, and by numerous individuals in the progressive movements of Texas and the United States.

It will take Two Cents and Ten Minutes to add your plea for the freedom of these men. Address it to Governor Miriam A. Ferguson, State Capital, Texas.

## The Flapper.

There is considerable concern today over that after-war product, that non-understood, and apparently non-understandable element of society known as "the flapper."

Whatever else we may fail to learn about the flapper, we know that she is a breaker of tradition, a follower of nothing that has gone before. Her status so far is a sort of hollow negativeness. It isn't so much what she does as what she doesn't do, that bothers us.

In other words, she doesn't follow any of the precepts set down for her by her elders. Her elders, she says, are hopelessly mid-Victorian, and that she will NEVER be.

Have YOU, dear reader, a little flapper in your home? If so, realizing her antipathy for the out-dated fashions and fancies of the past (including some very good things as well, for the past holds some splendid things), have you tried her mettle on a little advanced thought? On ideas and ideals that reach into the future, and which will build better and stronger for mankind in the approaching years?

Have you thought that you might get your flapper daughter and friend interested in the meaning and ideals of Socialism?

Try it. Not by force, or tiresome argument. But with a bait that will attract them. Reach them through their own kind—youth, and the enthusiasms of youth. Let them get it through dancing, through playing, through eating. . . . When the light breaks through, when they get the splendid meaning of it, nothing can stop them.

At least the youth of today is honest—honest and unabashed even in its shortcomings; when it is fed up on something besides the empty materialism of life, of society, of friends and family, with what eagerness it may accept that truth, we cannot guess. And what a carrying power it will be, once it understands and accepts the truths of life!

## The Filling Station

LINCOLN PHIFER

"I have been thinking," began Joe, of the Service Station.

"Better be careful, thinking is dangerous business," interrupted Hameline, the Truck Driver. "It gives me suspicious."

"That you have been reading the American Appeal."

"I subscribed last week."

"I thought so. What have you been thinking?"

"That there has been a tremendous amount of road building since the automobile came in; and that the roads built were costlier and better than America ever knew before. But that is not all."

"Well, what then?"

"That the American people have gone into debt deeply for roads; that the automobiles are rapidly wearing out the roads."

"So far your premises are sound. Is that all?"

"No, I have been reasoning on these facts. In going into debt for roads, the American people are mortgaging public property to bankers and such as buy bonds, and must pay interest on their own money which they deposited with the bankers and then borrowed of them. Then, that the tax on gasoline is causing the roads to be largely paid for by the owners of automobiles; and they who foot the bills own what they buy."

"I see what you are driving at. You mean that the roads are getting out of the hands of the people—ceasing to be public roads."

"Yes. They are first mortgaged to bankers; then they are being paid for by automobile owners. We see the result in how pedestrians and even drivers of wagons are practically being ruled from the so-called public roads."

"And you mean this is dangerous. What do you expect from private management of public property? You must be careful, man. You are treading on dangerous ground. You must learn to keep off the roads as well as the grass."

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## Letters to Judd

By Upton Sinclair

## Letter V

My dear Judd:

The next thing we want to understand is the tariff, and how that works to take money out of the pockets of the poor and put it into the pockets of the rich.

The government has to have money, like any other business. We all desire government services, and should pay our proper share, honestly and openly calculated. But we haven't an honest government, nor an honest social system; nobody wants to pay his share of anything, and taxes are unpopular; therefore the politicians put their wits to work and devise what are called "indirect taxes," ways of getting your money without your knowing it. Among these ways is the "protective tariff."

This was another great issue of the McKinley campaign, and well I remember the campaign slogans, devised for tricking the poor voters: "Protection and Prosperity; the Full Dinner Pail; the Foreigner Pays the Tax!" We liked the last one especially; we hated the foreigner, and were strong for making him pay—though just why we should have expected foreigners to put up the money to support the government of the United States, was something we might have been puzzled to explain.

A tariff is a tax imposed on all goods brought into the country. A protective tariff is a tax high enough to shut out foreign competition, by raising the cost of imported goods. Who pays the tax? The importer pays it, and he at once adds it to the price of the goods, so that the tax is passed on to the person who uses the goods, and the ultimate consumer. He is the man who pays, always and everywhere; and the effect of the tariff is simply to boost prices in a whole line of commodities. If the government got all this boost, it wouldn't be so bad; but the government gets only a small fraction, and the rest is a fat and juicy graft for the "protected" manufacturers.

But, say the newspapers and campaign orators of the "Grand Old Party," it is the workingman as well as his boss who is "protected"; if it were not for the tariff, our wage scales would be dragged down to the levels of Europe; the labor-saving foreigners would "dump" his goods on us! Well, Judd, for the workingman to try to improve his condition by a tariff, is as if a man should make himself rich by taking money out of his right-hand pocket and putting it into his left-hand pocket. If you look only at the left side of this man, you will think he is enjoying "prosperity"; and that is what the newspapers and the campaign orators did—and the poor workingman too, alas; for the subject is complicated, and the workingman does not have much time to think.

But you can see, Judd, that after the workingman has got his protected job and has collected his protected wages, he has to go to the stores and spend his money, and there he pays higher prices for everything he buys, because all these things have been "protected" from foreign competition, and the manufacturers of the things have been able to form trusts and fix the prices at higher levels. Just how much higher are the levels? The answer is easy; they are always a little higher than the wages! The whole story was told in the figures I gave you as to the movement of real wages in our country. Following the example of the "Grand Old Party," let me give you a slogan:

THE PROTECTIVE TARIFF IN THE PAST THIRTY-FIVE YEARS HAS REDUCED THE REAL WAGES OF THE AMERICAN WORKINGMAN BY FIVE PER CENT!

And what about the farmer? The farmer does not get much protection on his products, but has to buy vast quantities of manufactured goods at "protected" prices. Take the United States Census Reports, and study the growth of farm mortgages from 1890 to 1920. This is the final test, you understand; for the farmer does not give the banker a mortgage on his land because he loves the banker, but solely and simply because the cost of running his farm is greater than the income derived from the farm. We find that in 1890 there were mortgages on 27.8% of our farms, and in 1920 on 31%. So here is a slogan for the farmers:

THE PROTECTIVE TARIFF HAS INCREASED THE ENSLAVEMENT OF THE FARMERS TO THE BANKERS BY 35% IN 30 YEARS!

And what has been the effect of the protective tariff upon our politics? That also is easy to answer: It has made them a football to be kicked about by rival greedy interests; it has made our government a fat oyster to be opened and eaten at the banquets of trust magnates. The lobbyists of the big manufacturing interests have swarmed to Washington with their pockets full of bribes, and our congressmen and senators have been hogs at a swill-trough. Our political conventions have been bargain-counters, where candidates have met in secret hotel-rooms with the agents of the trusts, and have sold their honor and the welfare of the people. When the campaigns begin, the protected interests are frightened into putting up huge sums—"bribe" out the "fact" is the phrase; and then we have red fire and torchlight processions and banners and a wild hurrah, and the voters are herded to the polls like sheep—at the standard price of two dollars per sheep.

I grant you, Judd, that it might have been a reasonable policy for the American people to tax themselves to build up their industries at the beginning, when the industries were young and needed help. But what are we to say when these carefully nourished "infant industries" grow up into highwaymen that knock us on the head? It happened that in 1917 our country went to war "to make the world safe for democracy," and that was surely a time for patriotic sacrifices on the part of these beneficiaries of protection! From a report of the Secretary of the Treasury I take a few figures concerning the profits they made in that year. One woolen mill, hiding behind the carefully constructed tariff wall, made 177% on its capital stock, and in case that Wall Street method of figuring should puzzle you, Judd, I put it into your kind of figures; you build a house for \$1,000, and sell it for \$1,770. Seventeen woolen mills reported profits of over 100% on their capital stock—that is, the stockholders got back in one year's profit the total amount of their investment. The great American Woolen Company, with its capital stock of \$8,000,000, made a net profit of \$24,560,342. Canned fruits and vegetables, tariff protected, made as high as 2032%. Clothing and dry goods stores, tariff protected, made a profit of 982%. One steel mill, tariff protected, made as high as 290,999%. This, you will say, must be a joke; but I am quoting the figures of Secretary of the Treasury McAdoo; the capital stock of the concern was \$5,000, and the net profits were \$11,549,952. The great steel trust, our billion dollar infant, made in two years a net profit exceeding its capital stock.

These, of course, are war-time profits; but I assure you, Judd, such things are being done right along, up to this hour. Take our textile industry, highly protected, and paying starvation wages to its horde of wretched slaves. The great Amoskeag Company, manufacturing many kinds of cotton goods, had in 1907 a capital of \$14,000,000, which it has increased to \$44,000,000, all out of profits. Last year it made a net profit of \$2,531,114, which is 17% on the original investment. Or take the bread trust, our slum tenements. In 1922 the General Baking Company earned at the rate of 117% on each share of its original common stock. This stock rose from \$2 in 1916 to \$12.50 in 1922, and I assure you that is not a misprint! It is exactly as written! In this morning's paper I read how the president of this company has just paid \$200,000 for a box at the opera; the story tells how he rose from poverty, and we are expected to be proud of him!

Some understanding of the tariff robbery having begun to filter down to the people, our political masters promised us a reform. There was to be a "scientific" tariff, a commission was to study costs and prices, and provide exactly the right amount of protection. Well, last year this commission turned in a report, most "scientific," showing how the sugar trust was exploiting the American people, and advising the cutting of their tariff favors. And what did President Coolidge do with the report? He did his best to suppress the facts; and his action cost us a total of \$2,699,000 in nine months, and is

Here is a fine picture of the present system in operation as given out by the All American Cooperative Commission: Franklin D. Roosevelt recently followed the fortunes of a crate of celery from Norfolk, Va., to the consumer in New York City. The producer sold the crate for 40 cents. The commission men then played this kind of football with it: No. 1 sold it for 60 cents; No. 2 for 75 cents; No. 3 for 90 cents; No. 4 for \$1.05; No. 5 (in the Bronx) for \$1.15; No. 6 to a buyer for grocery stores for \$1.25. Buyer sold it to the retail grocery store for \$1.35. The groceryman sold it to the ultimate consumer for \$2.60. The consumer paid six and a half times as much as the producer got. The farmer got only 15 per cent of what the consumer paid. IT PASSED THROUGH THE HANDS OF EIGHT BUYERS, FOR THE MOST PART USELESS NON-PRODUCERS RIDING ON THE BACKS OF THE PRODUCER IN VIRGINIA AND THE CONSUMER IN NEW YORK.

The remedy for this condition would be the organization of the distribution of this celery at the lowest possible cost with all non-producers and unnecessary middlemen cut out—But that would be Socialism.

## The Almighty Dollar

By John S. Curryer.

Bow we down in adoration, hear our humble supplication,  
Thou art monarch, mighty ruler, thy commands must be obeyed,  
None exempt; the high, the lowly, are sustained by thy aid solely,  
With thy presence are exalted, at thy absence are dismayed.

Long ago (so it is stated) as a Golden Cal created,  
Thou wert worshiped and thy subjects for the sin did sore adore,  
Now thou art a lusty Taurus, and a powerful Wall Street chorus  
Loud proclaim thee power most potent and maintain thee on a throne.

Whate'er thou dost take us, should our friends despise, forsake us,  
With thy succor this is altered, they will smile as once before,  
Though our record may be tainted, it may yet be gilded, painted,  
All our faults by thee be hidden whilst we're on the golden shore.

Whilst thou rule we plead for favor; be our help, our guide, our savior  
Ne'er desert us we implore thee, stay with us until the end,  
For, as long as thou art master, we shall never fear disaster,  
With thy aid we prosper ever; thou'rt in need a powerful friend.

Some have won and others earned thee, some do make pretense to spurn thee,  
But they all know they must have thee if from want they would be free,  
Though they call thee Root of Evil, still thou art the one thing needful,  
Hunger, comfort, pleasure sated by the help alone of thee.

For thee orators have thundered; banks and safes been looted, plundered;  
Virtue has been torn and trampled, vice has sneered and law defied,  
Truth and honesty been riven, crimes that shriek aloud to heaven  
Are the harvest for thy favor, many times been multiplied.

To what haven are we sailing? Are all efforts unavailing?  
Did He Who o'erturned the tables strive in vain to show the way?  
No! thy reign is yielding, breaking, there will come a glad awakening,  
Thy supremacy be over, soon will dawn a brighter day.

## Bundle Order

## Hurry Back

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